

CLAIMS

1. A connecting device adapted for providing an optical connection between an apparatus comprising a plurality of apparatus ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals, and at least one optical fiber being coupled to a connector, the connecting device comprises a support plate supporting at least two adapters, each adapter comprises an adapter contact adapted for providing a connection with one of the apparatus ports and a connector contact adapted for providing a connection with the connector.
2. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the support plate provides a grip for substantially concurrently contacting all of its adapters with the respective apparatus ports to be contacted.
3. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the adapter contacts and the apparatus ports are adapted for providing a plug connection.
4. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the connector contacts and the connectors are adapted for providing a plug and/or screw connection.
5. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein
 - the support plate supports at least two adapters,
 - all adapters of the support plate are arranged in a straight line.
6. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein two opposing end portions of the support plate provide the grip.
7. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the end portions and the adapters are arranged in a straight line.
8. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein
 - the adapter contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for the same apparatus port type, and/or

- the adapter contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for different apparatus port types, and/or
- the connector contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for the same connector type, and/or
- 5 - the connector contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for different connector types.

9. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein

- at least one adapter is adapted for a single-mode connector and apparatus
10 port, and/or
- at least one adapter is adapted for a multi-mode connector and apparatus port.

10. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the connecting device

- 15 comprises at least one locking device providing a fixed position between each pair of adapter and apparatus port plugged together.

11. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein

- at least one of the adapters is provided with such a locking device,
- 20 - the support plate is provided for simultaneously adjusting the locking devices of all of its adapters between a locking state and a releasing state.

12. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein

- each locking device comprises at least one catching member mounted at the
25 adapter and movable between a locking position and a release position,
- in the locking position the catching member embraces a pin of the apparatus port,
- in the release position the catching member releases the pin.

30 13. The connecting device according to claim 12, wherein

- the locking device comprises a release and/or locking mechanism adapted for providing the release position and/or the locking position by activating the release and/or locking mechanism, and/or

- the locking device is adapted for providing the release position and/or the locking position passively by plugging the connecting device or by pulling the connecting device, respectively.

5 14. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the adapter is provided for receiving at least one bare fiber.

10 15. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the support plate is provided with a receptacle adapted for mounting a cable channel receiving, protecting and guiding the fibers of each connecting device.

16. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein

- each adapter is relative to the support plate and parallel to the plugging direction movably mounted at the support plate
- 15 - the support plate comprises at least one actuating member co-operating with at least one catching member of the adapter,
- a plug in movement of the support plate pushes the actuating member for urging the respective catching member into its locking position,
- a plug off movement of the support plate pulls the actuating member for
20 releasing the respective catching member into its release position.

17. A system, in particular a signal processing system, comprising

- at least one apparatus comprising a plurality of apparatus ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals,
- 25 - a plurality of optical fibers each being coupled to a connector,
- at least one connecting device adapted for providing optical connections between at least two of said apparatus ports and at least two of said connectors,
- wherein the connecting device comprises a support plate supporting at least
30 two adapters,
- wherein each adapter comprises an adapter contact adapted for providing a connection with one of the apparatus ports, and a connector contact adapted for providing a connection with one of said connectors.

18. The system according to claim 17, wherein all apparatus ports assigned to the same connecting device are arranged in a straight line.

- 5 19. A system for mounting a connecting device according to claim 1, comprising
- at least two types of support plates adapted for different types and/or numbers of adapters, and/or
 - at least two types of adapters adapted for different connectors and/or apparatus ports.

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